

HISTORY BUILDERS.

An Actor Who Was Always Himself.

By DR. E. J. EDWARDS.

Richard Mansfield was making his first great success as an actor in a play en-

1 titled "Dean Brummell," I breakfasted
2 with him and afterward spent the fore-
noon in his company at his apartment.

These were the entire top floor of an apartment house which stood directly op-

posite Delmonico's restaurant in Broadway which was some years ago torn

down to make room for a great office building. Mr. Mansfield showed me his

jewels. He possessed a wonderful black diamond which he was fond of holding in his hand and looking at so he might

get various iridescent flashes. His apartment was furnished with genuine Chip-

pendale furniture and as he pointed out to me the delicate construction of the

almost as if he were acting in the reception room scene in the play. For

his manner in the play did not differ at all from his manner as he showed

He led me to a large open fireplace

adorned with heavy andirons, which he told me were valuable relics. It was a

to get a good blaze. He lugged in wood from an anteroom and cast it all at

once upon some flickering ashes. The flame would not reach from the ashes

to the wood. Therefore, the great actor went down upon his knees and began to

blow, making of himself a human bellows. Occasionally he looked around at me over his shoulder to say, "Be na-

At last the flame mounted from the

ashes to the wood and there came a glorious blaze. All this was done exactly

as Mansfield would have acted out the part in case a scene of this kind had

been introduced into a play. I therefore made up my mind that Mr. Mansfield was always himself in every part which

he undertook. He was charming that morning, yet he seemed to be acting all

"At the time, I ventured to ask him if it were his theory that an actor should

eliminate himself completely so as absolutely to personify the part he was

"That is nonsense," he replied, "because it is impossible. I don't believe any actor

who succeeded greatly ever forgot that it was he who was acting. He must be

conscious that he is playing a part in order to perfect the illusion."

was gowned in black charouse with
an overdress of jetted net.
Following the ceremony was a social
reception, after which Mr. and Mrs.

